

Amdt. dated December 6, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 1, 2005

Serial No. 09/658,078
Docket No. ROC920000078US1
Firm No. 0021.0010

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11, 15-25, and 29-39 have been elected. Claims 2, 3, 16, 17, 30 and 31 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4-11, 15, 18-25, 29 and 32-39 are pending.

The applicants have studied the Office Action dated November 1, 2005 and believe the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 15-20, 22-25, 29-34 and 36-39 have been rejected as being unpatentable (35 U.S.C. 103(a)) over Courter et al. (hereinafter the Courter reference) in view of Pandit (US 5859636). Claims 7, 21 and 35 have been rejected as being unpatentable (35 U.S.C. 103(a)) over Courter et al. (hereinafter the Courter reference) in view of Pandit (US 5859636) and further in view of Nielson (US 5907680). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner for reasons including those provided in applicants' prior response. However, in order to advance prosecution, applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's proposed amendments sent by facsimile to the undersigned on October 26, 2005. The Examiner's proposed amendments provided an example of the amendments to claim 1 which the Examiner indicated would place that claim in condition for allowance. The remaining independent claims 15 and 29 have been amended in an analogous fashion. Claims have been canceled where the subject matter of those claims has been incorporated in the associated independent claim. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the original claims in a continuation application. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

As set forth above, claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's proposed amendments. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments will not require a new search or raise new issues for consideration by the Examiner. It is submitted that these amendments place the claims in better form for appeal. These amendments were not presented earlier because they were deemed appropriate to advance prosecution after receipt of the latest

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Office Action. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to enter and consider these amendments after the final rejection.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicants submit that the pending Claims 1, 4-11, 15, 18-25, 29 and 32-39 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-5085.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7970 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

By: 

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Dated: December 6, 2005

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